



CULTURE  
CONSORTIUM  
SHROPSHIRE



## Together Seminar 2020

Increasing participatory opportunities for  
children and young people with disabilities  
living in Shropshire



Getting **Hearts** Beating Faster

Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Active Partnership





56 delegates from arts and culture, sports and leisure, statutory services and parent carer representatives.

## Aims of the day:

- \* Key note speeches from exemplar organisations and professionals delivering inclusive activity in arts and culture
  - \* Key note speeches from sport and leisure professionals regarding best practice for inclusion
- \* Key note speeches from Parent Carers and young adults already accessing activities
- \* Group exploration and discussion on barriers to engagement for families and CYP
- \* Call to action for organisations and professionals to be part of the research and development programme

# Speakers:



Laura Guthrie and Dawn  
Bowden



SHROPSHIRE Parent  
And  
Carer  
Council

Sarah Thomas  
(parent carer)



Mark Fosbrook  
Include Me  
West Midlands



Gill Jones and  
Shelley McGlinchey

Delphine Wise  
(young adult participant)

All speakers speeches are available via:

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?  
list=PLP0qaoTpofGwFolr9Kw-Z-NiyQg5Emaae](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLP0qaoTpofGwFolr9Kw-Z-NiyQg5Emaae)

or if you prefer a written overview of the  
speeches please email:

kate@i-gnition.co.uk

What delegates said about the speakers:



All very interesting. Especially those who were parents and those who have disabilities and hearing them tell [their] story

Inspired by the speakers from Bamboozle. Will incorporate some of their ideas into my practice.

JoAnne Haines - I loved this video - I found this really powerful and inspiring and would imagine anyone watching this would feel the same. what a great role model. Everyone needs to see this video.

The speakers all spoke passionately about their individual settings and gave good examples of best practice.

What delegates said about the speakers:



Mark Fosbrook - this gave such a good insight into the possibilities of inclusivity when you take a look at your approach and work more in collaboration. Such a great speaker who gave me a lot to think about from his presentation

New Saints - this too was a really interesting presentation and the enthusiasm, compassion and the motivation of Shelly really shone through in particular.

Open, concise, informative and passionate

Delphine Wise - the honesty and humour that Delphine delivered in her presentation was absolutely brilliant. Another inspiration and excellent role model. To give an insight into what her experience as a young person with a disability was like, some of the challenges and the how improvements that could and can be achieved by increasing awareness of providers/schools etc and by ensuring that disabled children and young people are involved and consulted.

Key messages  
delegates will take  
away:



- 'Listen to parents about their stories and struggles .I would like them to give a talk at our schools and let us know what they need as apposed to just the child's needs.It is the parent who has to cope with travel, struggles and the every day life challenges.We need to be trained more in this whole journey of theirs and try to involve it into our business and realise what an impact it can make to everyone.'
- 'We need to research the blocks and barriers to engagement - getting people to the door in the first place, as well as what we do once they arrive.'
- 'One size doesn't fit all - a range of services, techniques and approaches is needed how to think more broadly about inclusive practice and approaches that there are many individuals that feel passionately about what they do - to bring the forces together could achieve great things.'
- 'That sometimes, you don't have all the answers at the beginning - you go forward, you take risks but with the right people that have the will and motivation great things can happen. It isn't just about money to make things happen - working together (with people with shared motivation and passion) with a broad range of backgrounds and skills is key.'



- 'Importance of supporting participants to establish their self identity. Participants need to be involved in activities that are meaning and purposeful. Importance of designing activities with, not for participants. Importance of 'following up' with participants to avoid losing attendees.'
- 'I liked the 'Bamboozle' message of not setting expectations. Allowing time and space to explore and express ideas and emotions.'
- 'Ideas for cross partnership working, how to overcome barriers.'



Breakout Groups -  
Barriers to participation.  
What did delegates think  
they were?



Lack of family/CYP'S awareness  
of activities taking place - limited  
information on clubs/groups  
available

Geography of  
Shropshire/ transport  
links and flexibility

Providers/organisations not  
giving enough information about  
their activity. Families/CYP don't  
know if the activity 'is for them.'

Length of sessions

Families having to provide  
repeated information about their  
child - no joined up information  
system



Breakout Groups -  
Barriers to participation...  
What did delegates think  
they were?



Families fear of 'risk' in  
trying new activities for  
their CYP

Worries and fears for  
the CYP and families  
about 'fitting in'

Terminology and  
wording of the  
activity/venue. How  
do your CYP/families  
identify themselves?

Understanding the individual  
rights of the CYP to attend  
activity. Support services not  
joining up to enable this

One bad experience  
preventing further  
opportunities

Breakout Groups -  
What support is needed,  
to improve inclusion?



Investment in buildings-  
changing facilities

Change in perception of  
some facilities i.e. libraries  
and theatres

Getting the message 'out  
there' about what is  
available to CYP in terms of  
inclusive activity

Creating more  
events/shows that are  
specifically designed for a  
diverse audience

Bringing organisations  
together to share  
expertise

Placing the child or  
young person at the  
centre of the experience

Pre-activity and post activity support for families to enable engagement

More opportunities within mainstream activity

More opportunities to hear the voice of CYP and parent carers about what their barriers to engagement are

Travel training to enable independent access to activities

More leadership opportunities for CYP with disabilities



This Seminar is part of a Partnership Investment Research and Development programme, which has been developed by Culture Consortium Shropshire and The Actio Consortium to increase participatory arts and culture opportunities for children and young people with disabilities living in Shropshire. The learnings from the programme will be able to be shared across other disciplines and engage other sectors to gain best practice information.

The funding has come from Arts Connect and has been matched by a variety of partners including Shropshire Council.

For more information please visit:

[www.cultureconsortiumshropshire.com](http://www.cultureconsortiumshropshire.com)

[www.actio.org.uk](http://www.actio.org.uk)

Or contact the Partnership Investment Strategic  
Lead Ignition CIC  
[hannah@i-ignition.co.uk](mailto:hannah@i-ignition.co.uk)